

## Lessons Learned

One important element of the Compliance Review Program is to establish effective two-way lines of communication between the compliance review team (Task Force) and personnel responsible for overseeing project conformance with storm water requirements.

### *What You Can Learn from the Task Force...*

Through the project compliance reviews, monthly bulletins, training, and inspection assistance, the Task Force communicates the latest regulatory, Best Management Practice (BMP), and documentation requirements necessary for storm water pollution prevention compliance.

### *...and What the Task Force Learns from You*

Through your feedback-questions, success stories, innovative solutions, and on-going efforts- the Task Force gains a realistic view of the challenges of implementing the storm water protection program in a world driven by schedules and costs. This bulletin reviews some of the most important lessons learned from your experiences.

#### *Lesson #1: The Importance of Scheduling*

Scheduling major soil-disturbing activities to occur during the non-winter (dry) season is one of the most important storm water BMPs on construction sites. Construction personnel consider it one of the more difficult BMPs to master because of the complexity of construction scheduling.

**Recommendation:** In the months preceding the rainy season, review the project schedule with your contractor, and determine methods to reduce the amount of disturbed soil areas. The Caltrans Storm Water Quality Handbooks, *Construction Contractors Guide and Specification (Handbook)*, refers to **CD22, Scheduling**, for guidance in integrating storm water program elements into the overall construction schedule.

#### *Lesson #2: Tracking is an Unnecessary Evil*

As the photograph illustrates, tracking mud and dirt from the project site onto public areas is unsightly, can create a public safety hazard, and introduces potential storm water pollutants. Tracking can be reduced by implementing BMPs from **CD29A, Stabilized Construction Entrance** and **CD29B, Stabilized Construction Roadway**.

**Recommendation:** A sustained multiple BMP approach works the best. For example, stabilize a construction roadway or exit with large aggregate (2" minimum) in combination with regular street sweeping of construction site roads and affected adjacent streets. Minimizing the number of entrance/ exit points to the project is another factor to consider in reducing sediment pollution

#### *Lesson #3: Protect Your Investment*

To ensure on-going compliance, soil stabilization, sediment control, and non-storm water management and waste management and disposal BMPs must be inspected and maintained. Too often following installation, BMPs are allowed to degrade to the point that they are ineffective for storm water pollution prevention.

**Recommendation:** Assign one inspector to regularly inspect the BMPs, and educate the entire inspection staff to be alert and report maintenance and repair needs. Refer to guidelines in the Handbook for appropriate BMP maintenance schedules and activities, particularly during the rainy season.

#### *Lesson #4: Stay Up-to-Date*

It is important to stay current and up-to-date regarding project site requirements for storm water protection. Be sure that Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plans (SWPPPs) and Water Pollution Control Programs (WPCPs) developed for your projects conform to the requirements, and are amended as the project progresses. Current standards are defined in the April 1997



Preventing Mud and Dirt Tracking from the Project Site is a Common Challenge on Construction Sites

revision of the Handbooks (with amendments dated August 1997).

**Recommendation:** Review and update the SWPPP/ WPCP before the winter season or when the project staging impacts the approved plan. Be on the alert for information on the new requirements from the recently adopted Caltrans Statewide Storm Water Permit.

